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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 18, 1996, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1996

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

On Sunday, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and, so, I feel today it is appropriate to give the Gaelic Blessing and then the prayer St. Patrick used each morning.

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun lie warm upon Your face,
The rain fall softly on your fields,
And until we meet again
May the Lord hold you
In the hollow of His hand.

Gracious Lord, we remember the words with which St. Patrick began his days. "I arise today, through God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me, God's hand to guard me, God's way to lie before me and God's shield to protect me." In Your holy name, Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, for the information of my colleagues this morning, there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 10 o'clock. Following morning business,

the Senate will begin consideration of S. 942, the small business regulatory relief bill, under the consent agreement reached yesterday. When the Senate concludes the debate on the small business bill, it will resume consideration of the continuing resolution. Senators should be reminded that any votes ordered on the small business regulatory relief bill or the continuing resolution will occur during Tuesday's session of the Senate. No rollcall votes will occur today or on Monday. However, Senators should be prepared to debate their amendments on these days in order to complete action on the continuing resolution appropriations bill on Tuesday, as is required under the consent agreement.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). The Senator from Minnesota.

THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I thank my colleague for his graciousness in allowing me some time to announce the realization of another component of our initiative to prevent violence against women: the national domestic violence hotline. The hotline, which officially opened on February 24, signifies the realization of the key pro-

vision of the Violence Against Women Act passed by the Congress as part of the 1994 crime bill.

I urge my colleagues, as we go into appropriations, to continue to fully fund this. The toll-free number is 1-800-799-SAFE. This will provide immediate crisis assistance counseling and local shelter referrals to women across the country 24 hours a day. And for women that are watching right now on C-SPAN, again, I want to repeat this number: 1-800-799-SAFE. There is also a TDD number for the hearing impaired: 1-800-787-3224.

The hotline will help to ensure that any person suffering due to violence in their home will have immediate access to information and emergency assistance whenever they need it. This is an important part of our initiative to end the family violence that has such devastating consequences for women, children, and families in Minnesota and throughout the country.

Roughly 1 million women are victims of domestic violence each year, and battering may be the single most common cause of injury to women—more common than auto accidents, muggings, or rapes by a stranger.

According to the FBI, one out of every two women in America will be beaten at least once in the course of an intimate relationship—one out of every two women in America. The FBI also speculates that battering is the most underreported crime in the country.

It is estimated that the new hotline will receive close to 10,000 calls a day. And for all women that are watching, again, the number is 1-800-799-SAFE,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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